Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 00400 220819Z

11
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 EB-07 OMB-01 CIEP-01 SAM-01 AGR-05

AID-05 EUR-12 EA-06 /102 W
---------- 120093
R 220655Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5530
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0400

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, BG
SUBJ: JATIYO SANGSAD OPENS: CONSTITUTIONAL CLIFFHANGER CONTINUES

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MOHAMMADULLAH'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING JATIYO SANGSAD JANUARY 20 WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL AND GAVE ONLY THE BRIEFEST HINT OF POSSIBLE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES. WITH LEGISLATURE RE-CESSED FOR FOUR DAYS, MUJIB WATCHERS THINK THAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS FOR SHIFT TO PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM WILL BE INTRODUCED SATURDAY, JANUARY 25. MUJIB APPARENTLY USED A SERIES OF AWAMI LEAGUE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETINGS WHICH ENDED JANUARY 21 TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO CHANGES, BUT THE JOB WAS NOT EASY. END SUMMARY

1. AT OPENING OF JATIYO SANGSAD ON JANUARY 20, THE SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT PRIMARILY REVIEWED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN BANGLADESH (SEPTEL), PLACING BLAME FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE FAMILIAR COMBINATION OF FLOODS, WORLD INFLATION, AND "ANTISOCIAL ELEMENTS," BUT ALSO ENUMERATING GOVERNMENT'S POSITIVE STEPS TO-WARD RECOVERY. IT GAVE SURPRISINGLY STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE "ABSOLUTE NECESSITY" FOR CONTROLLING POPULATION GROWTH ON A PRIORITY BASIS "AS A PREREQUISITE FOR OUR OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVEL-OPMENT." FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH SINGLED OUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 00400 220819Z

THE ARMED FORCES FOR PRAISE AS ESSENTIAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

SOVEREIGNTY AND FOR ACQUITTING THEMSELVES "CREDITABLY" IN PREVENTING SMUGGLING AND IN DISTRIBUTING FOODGRAINS DURING THE FLOODS. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE RAKKHI BAHINI.

2. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SPEECH CITED BANGLADESH'S ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AS PROOF OF THE SUCCESS OF BDG'S FOREIGN POLICY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND NONALIGNMENT, BUT IN COMMENT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, GAVE FIRST MENTION TO TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE YET TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH: CHINA AND SAUDI ARABIA. ASCORDING TO SPEECH, "CONTACTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND EXCHANGES MADE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS" WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS. STATING THAT BOTH HAD PROVIDED FLOOD RELIEF ASSISTANCE, THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "FORMAL RELATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH THESE COUNTRIES SOON." IN DISCUSSING ESTABLISHED TIES, THE SPEECH ASSIGNED FIRST IMPORTANCE TO BANGLADESH'S CLOSE TIES WITH INDIA, FOLLOWED BY REFERENCES TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, THE SOVIET UNION, AND WESTERN EUROPE. ON US-BANGLADESH RELATIONS, MUJIB'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND THE VISIT TO DACCA OF DR. KISSINGER WERE CONSIDERED TO "HAVE INCREASED THE AREAS OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES." SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE "SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH" IN RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES, WITH AN ENUMERATION OF THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS OF BANGLADESH AND ARAB LEADERS IN THE PAST YEAR. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE SPEECH REPEATED THE FAMILIAR BDG THEME THAT PAKISTAN HAD NOT RECIPROCATED THE "CLEMENCY" GRANTED THE 195 POW'S BY BEING FORTHCOMING TO SETTLE THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS OF DIVISION OF ASSETS AND THE REPATRIATION OF THE "REMAINING 63,000 PAKISTANI FAMILIES."

3. ONLY VAGUE HINT OF MORE DRASTIC MEASURES TO COME WAS IN THE CONCLUDING REMARKS OF THE SPEECH. IT SAID THAT "WE SHALL HAVE TO DEAL SEVERE BLOWS TO THE ENEMIES OF THE NATION SO AS TO FULFILL THE HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE." AFTER CALLING FOR SELF-ANALYSIS, SELF-PURIFICATION, AND AUSTERITY, THE SPEECH CHARGED THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. SAYING THAT THEY HAD ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION OF BANGOBANDHU, THE SPEECH ENDED BY SAYING IT "IS INCUMBENT ON ALL OF US TO MARCH FORWARD ALONG THE ROAD CHARTED" BY MUJIB.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: AS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE IN THE PAST 10 MONTHS OF RUMORED CHANGE IN GOVERNMENTAL FORM, ANOTHER SUPPOSED KEY DATE HAS PASSED WITHOUT MUJIB'S TAKING ACTION. THE CONSENSUS OF SPECULATION NOW IS THAT THE CONSTITUNIONAL AMENDMENTS ENABLING A SHIFT TO A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM WILL BE INTRODUCED SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES AFTER A FOUR-DAY RECESS. A SERIES OF AWAMI LEAGUE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY (ALPP) MEETINGS CONCLUDED LAST NIGHT (JANUARY 21) AND THERE ARE REPORTS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

THAT SHEIKH MUJIB BROWBEAT ALPP INTO ACCEPTING NEED FOR CHANGES. HE REPORTEDLY ENCOUNTERED A GOODLY MEASURE OF OPPOSITION WHICH HE OVERCAME ONLY BY A THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM POLITICS.

5. WHATEVER ACCURACY OF THE REPORTS MAY BE, A CHANGE IS ALMOST UNIVERSALLY EXPECTED. THE PRIMIN IMPLIED AS MUCH TO AID ADMIN-ISTRATOR PARKER JANUARY 18 (DACCA 341). MOREOVER, A PROPOSAL FOR A FEBRUARY 4 MEETING OF LOCAL AID DONORS WAS TURNED DOWN BY PLANNING COMMISSION SECRETARY SYEDUZZAMAN, AND ON FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE REASON, THE CHARGE WAS TOLD "THEY DON'T KNOW WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF WHAT ON THAT DAY."
CHESLAW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORM OF GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA00400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750023-1018
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750131/aaaabbep.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JATIYO SANGSAD OPENS: CONSTITUTIONAL CLIFFHANGER CONTINUES SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MOHAMMADULLAH'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING JATIYO
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006